

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the case. Claims 1-17 and 19-23 are rejected. Claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but is allowable if rewritten in independent form. In the present submission, claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 22 have been amended and claims 9, 10, 12, 15, 18, 21, and 23 have been cancelled. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the present submission, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 18 and intervening claim 9. Therefore, claim 18 has now been incorporated into claim 1. Claim 1, as amended, is therefore in condition for allowance. Claims 2-8, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 17, dependent upon claim 1, are also in condition for allowance for at least the reason of their dependency. Withdrawal of the §102(a) and the §103(a) rejections of claims 1, 2-8, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 4, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 have been amended only to correct clerical errors and to update the claim dependency. No new matter has been entered.

In the present submission, each of claims 19 and 22 has been amended to include all the limitations of claims 9 and 18. Since claim 18 is indicated to be allowable, claims 19 and 22, as amended, are therefore also allowable over the cited references. Claim 20, dependent upon claim 19, is patentable at least for the reason of its dependency. Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections of claims 19, 20 and 22 is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 10, 12, 15, 18, 21, and 23 have been cancelled and the rejections with respect to these claims are therefore moot.

CONCLUSION

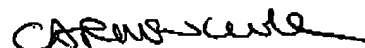
After the present amendment, claims 1-8, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 22 are pending. For the reasons stated above, the claims are in condition for allowance and passage of the case to allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner would like to discuss any aspect of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 382-0480.

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Respectfully submitted,



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